

Minutes of the SWAC Meeting of February 6, 2013

in attendance: Phil Harris, Superintendant, Department of Solid Waste Management; Peter Blood, SWAC Vice Chair

SWAC Members: Dawn Adams, Rich Terselic, Bob Clark, Bryan Malseed

Guest: Kevin Demosky, Director, Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management

The meeting opened shortly after 6:30 PM with a quorum present.

The minutes of the October, 2012 meeting were approved as edited. Bob Clark abstained from voting since he was not a member at the time of the meeting.

Peter moved to move the election of officers to the next meeting because of the limited attendance.

Phil announced that Dan Locke, who had served as SWAC Chair, had resigned because of personal and work related constraints.

Phil presented a **Department Update**.

1. A pilot Municipal drop off recycling project will proceed involving municipalities who enter agreements with the County. Three have done so to date. \$100,000 stipend has been set aside that participating municipalities will be allocated on a population basis. The money will go to paying haulers and other related costs.

2. MDE has approved the County's recycling and diversion rate proposals of 44.78% and 49.78% respectively. Another 10% will be needed to achieve the Solid Waste Management Plan goals set by the County for 2026.

3. Organic products of the Department had accumulated beyond expected levels and a successful ½ price sale was held. It was advertised in local publications.

4. There will be another compost bin sale, expected to be at Fredericktowne Mall parking lot on April 27. Volunteer help will be needed. Only free ads will be used to publicize the event.

5. An "app" has been acquired that will provide recycling reminders. It can be accessed from the Department website. Grant funds will be used to cover set up costs of paying the private firm that developed the "app."

6. May 18, (8-12 AM) has been set for a residential hazardous waste collection at the Reichs Ford Road Fire Safety Training facility.

7. Reduced tipping rates will go into effect on July 1. They involve a \$7/ton reduction for both trash and C/D. Trash goes from \$76 to \$69 and C/D from \$85 to \$78. The lower rates will only apply to cash/check payments or timely cash/check payments of monthly cycle billings. Payments by credit or debit cards (when implemented) will be at the old rates.

8. The January 30 MDE WTE hearings were well attended. Phil and Kevin attended and Phil estimated that 2/3 of the attendees were against the WTE and 1/3 for. MDE will allow 60 days for submission of written comments. Three permits are involved: land, air and water.

9. Carroll County has not yet indicated whether it will formerly pull out of their equity partnership in the construction and operation of the WTE facility if approved by MDE. The BOCC can determine if non-equity partners will be permitted to bring trash to the WTE.

10. A new recycling transportation and processing contract solicitation is being worked up. Sale prices for recycling products continue to be push lower.

11. A "bottle bill" may be introduced again in to the General Assembly. Provisions of the bill are not yet known. Phil pointed out that a bottle bill that involved deposits and new collection procedures could have a negative effect on current recycling programs.

12. MDE is asking for some language changes in the Solid Waste Management Plan and these will come to SWAC for review for consistency with the Solid Waste Management Plan. Among the changes will be provision for required recycling by multi-family housing units. Enforcement issues can be handled at the local level if so desired.

Peter asked if there had been any action on how recycling and diversion rates are calculated. Phil noted that he was unaware of any action, and that techniques varied greatly across the country.

The guest had no comments to offer and the meeting was adjourned at about 7:30 PM.

(Note: after the meeting closed Rich reminded Peter about the annual trash survey was approaching. It is normally conducted in March.)

